

Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6223

S E C R E T PRETORIA 5314

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RH

SUBJECT: SMITH STATEMENT

REF: STATE 285015

1. I HAVE RELAYED THE MESSAGED CONTAINED REFTEL TO HAWKINS AND FOURIE. HAWKINS MADE NO SUBSTANTIVE COMMENT BUT SAID HE WOULD COMMUNICATE IT IMMEDIATELY TO SALISBURY. FOURIE NOTED THAT PRIME MINISTER IS OUT OF TOWN. ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE HE WOULD SPEAK WITH HAWKINS TO UNDERScore SAG CONCERN OVER SMITH STATEMENT. DURING COURSE OF DAY HE WOULD CONTACT VORSTER TO PASS ON SUBSTANCE OF OUR CONVERSATION AND ACTION HE HAD TAKEN WITH HAWKINS.

2. MORNING NEWSPAPERS AND RADIO CARRY STORIES ON SMITH INTERVIEW FUNSETH STATEMENT. UNDER HEADLINE "KISSINGER MAN SAYS: NO ARMS FOR SMITH" RAND DAILY MAIL PUBLISHED THIS UPI STORY DATELINED WASHINGTON:

QUOTE THE STATE DEPARTMENT SAID YESTERDAY THAT THERE WERE NO SECRET AGREEMENTS WITH RHODESIA AND THAT MR IAN SMITH WAS MISTAKEN IF HE THOUGHT THERE WAS AN UNDERSTANDING THAT HE COULD GET AMERICAN ARMS.

A STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN, MR ROBERT FUNSETH, WAS ASKED ABOUT A STATEMENT MR SMITH MADE DURING A TELEVISION PROGRAMME IN SALISBURY. MR SMITH SAID THE TALKS WITH US
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SECRETARY OF STATE, DR KISSINGER, IN PRETORIA, LEFT HIM WITH

THE UNDERSTANDING THAT HE MIGHT GET AMERICAN HELP, INCLUDING ARMS, IF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE COLLAPSED BECAUSE OF THE BLACK NATIONALISTS.

MR FUNSETH SAID: "AS THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAS SAID, THERE ARE NO SECRET COMMITMENTS OR ASSURANCES OF ANY KIND."

ASKED BY NEWSMEN IF MR SMITH WAS MISTAKEN IN HIS UNDERSTANDING OF DR KISSINGER'S ASSURANCES, HE ANSWERED: "YES."

"I AM NOT AWARE OF ANY CHANGE IN THE UNITED STATES POLICY IN SUPPORT OF THE ECONOMIC SANCTIONS, INCLUDING ARMS, AGAINST THE ILLEGAL REGIME IN RHODESIA", MR FUNSETH SAID.

IN SALISBURY YESTERDAY, MR SMITH SAID DR KISSINGER HAD ASSURED HIM THAT IF PEACE EFFORTS BROKE DOWN BECAUSE OF THE BLACK NATIONALISTS, RHODESIA WOULD BE LIKELY TO GET WESTERN ARMS SUPPLIES. UNQUOTE.
BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, PRESS CONFERENCES, MINORITIES, CAT-A
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PRETOR05314
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P840098-2163
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761128/aaaaaybq.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 76 STATE 285015
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 MAY 2004 by woolflhd>; APPROVED <13 SEP 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SMITH STATEMENT
TAGS: PFOR, PDEV, MASS, SF, US, RH, (SMITH, IAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006